

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 848
By McMillan

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James I. Vance Berry for meritorious volunteer service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, James I. Vance Berry is one such commendable individual who was recently honored for his community involvement in the fall of 2005; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2005, the American Diabetes Association (ADA) presented Vance Berry with the "Volunteer of a Lifetime Award." This special honor recognized his twenty-plus years of service to the ADA, including his service as one of the founders of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the ADA and his service on the National ADA Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Boulton, Cummings, Conners & Berry, PLC, the firm of which he is a founding partner, was pleased and proud to honor Mr. Berry's distinguished contributions to the firm and the community with a financial contribution to the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2005, the Nashville School of Law was proud to dedicate the "James I. Vance Berry Board Room" at their new Armory Oaks Drive facility. Mr. Berry has a long tradition of volunteering and working with the Nashville School of Law; he taught Real Property Law from 1974 until 1998, and served as a trustee of the school for many years; and

WHEREAS, Vance Berry received a bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1946, attended the University of Virginia from 1946-1947, and earned a juris doctorate degree in 1948 from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berry serves as the senior real estate lawyer on Boulton, Cummings's Real Estate team; he is widely known and respected in the real estate industry and by institutional real estate lenders; and

WHEREAS, Vance Berry represented the significant developers who were active in the Nashville market in the 1970s, and he continues to pursue his commercial real estate practice; in recent years, he has become more active in the areas of general corporate practice, estate administration, and estate planning; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berry has lent his superb leadership skills to numerous civic endeavors and is an important figure in the advancement of many worthy organizations. He is a past President of the Estate Planning Council of Nashville and served for seven years as an instructor in real property at the Nashville School of Law, where he now serves on the Board of Trustees; he is a former member of the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Belle Meade and now serves as its city attorney; he is also a former member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee of the YMCA Community Action Project; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Vance Berry served on the Board of Directors of the Nashville Bar Association and on the Board of Governors of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and as President and a Director of the Monroe Harding Children's Home, the Belle Meade Country Club, and the Alumni Association of the Vanderbilt Law School; he was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Task Force that created the Nashville Child Advocacy Center; and

WHEREAS, committed to the highest precepts of community service, Mr. Berry has been active for many years in the American Diabetes Association, having served as President of its Middle Tennessee Chapter, Chairman of its Tennessee Affiliate, Chair of its Southern Region, and as a member of its national Board of Directors and various national committees; and

WHEREAS, Vance Berry has also served on the board and Executive Committee and as Secretary of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA); he is the immediate past president of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the APTA and has been listed for

more than ten years in the national publication, *The Best Lawyers in America*, for his real estate practice; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Berry has dedicated himself to the pursuit of bettering the lives of his fellow human beings and improving his community. He is a member of the Nashville Bar Association for which he served as Director from 1992-1994, as well as the Tennessee and American Bar Associations, and of the American Judicature Society; he is a fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation, the Tennessee Bar Foundation (Grant Review Committee, 1993-1995), American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, American College of Mortgage Attorneys, and the American College of Real Estate Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berry epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Vance Berry, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to seize this golden opportunity to recognize and honor this estimable public servant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend James I. Vance Berry for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.